



FOOLING WITH FATE
—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

over-stimulation of crops and causes them to make greater growth at the outset than subsequent supplies of moisture can maintain.

Disking small grain stubble has proved beneficial by preventing weed growth whenever there has been sufficient moisture in the soil at harvest time to produce a growth of weeds, or where rains have come early enough to start weed growth. Plowing has been better than disking, in that it more thoroughly kills all weed growth and in the case of heavy rains, plowed land will absorb more water than disked land, because it is more thoroughly stirred.

Weeds are the greatest agency for the loss of water from the soil. Preventing weed growth has been more important from the standpoint of storing water in the soil than cultivating the soil to produce any kind of a mulch.

It has been found that spring wheat, oats, barley and corn feed to an average depth of four feet in the soil at North Platte. Winter wheat feeds to a depth of six or seven feet. Alfalfa and grasses use water from even greater depths.

PLANNING A FARM

There are probably few men who in laying out their farm, draw actual plans and specifications, and make calculations of the expense. The tendency is to allow the arrangement of the buildings and fields to remain as they have always been even though they could be rearranged at perhaps little cost of time or labor, to be much more convenient. In old farmsteads one sees various ill-conceived arrangements, which, during the lives of the one or more generations that have lived on the farm, must have necessitated the expenditure of thousands of dollars in needless steps or other wasted energy.

This condition of things is far less noticeable on the up-to-date farm than it was even a few years ago. It seems that in recent years more attention than ever before has been given to method and devices that will lighten the burden of farm labor. It certainly shows good judgment when a man gives enough attention to this subject to rearrange his en-

tire farm plan, if need be, in order that a little time and labor each day will be saved. When we think of all the hard work that every farmer has to do at certain rush seasons of the year, we can plainly see how important it is to have labor saving implements and well located and arranged buildings and fields.

To prevent errors of this sort the United States department of agriculture has for some time been at work formulating plans for farms which promise to be of great value. The character of the work is almost entirely new, and many hundreds of plans were drawn, including those of all types of farms in all sections of the country, before general rules for such work could be deduced. Planning a farm properly requires no small amount of mathematical calculation, and can best be done by drawing a map of the farm with the fields and buildings conveniently arranged for a suitable cropping and feeding system. Time spent in planning or rearranging the farm will bring good returns.

WHY HOE

The loosening of the soil by cultivation so that oxygen and nitrogen may enter is necessary for the best plant growth. The normal surface soil is full of millions of bacteria which live on the vegetable matter of the soil. The bacteria cause this to decay and thus become soluble and usable for plants. If the bacteria do not get the oxygen, they die. The nitrogen is of assistance in the growing of leguminous crops—such as clover, alfalfa, peas and beans—as well as the non-leguminous crops. In order to secure the proper amount of aeration, the Nebraska college of agriculture advises proper drainage and cultivation. Hoeing, or other cultivation, in addition, by destroying weeds, conserves the needed moisture.

SECOND SPRAYING

The second spraying of apples, says J. R. Duncan, secretary of the state horticultural society, is the most important one in the fight to control the codling moth. This spray, if proper-

ly applied, will so reduce the number that there will be few to produce the second brood which usually hatches out in August. The second or petal fall treatment should be applied as rather coarse spray. The Bordeaux nozzle should be used. The pressure should tax the capacity of the pump and the maximum should be 250 pounds. The materials used are lime sulphur, (1 1-3 gallons to 50 gallons water) as a fungicide and arsenate of lead (2 pounds to 50 gallons of water) as an insecticide. These are to be applied in combined spray. The time for application is short as the spray should be used after three-fourths of the petals have fallen and before the calyx-cup has closed. This period is usually about ten days.

FEEDING THE YOUNG CHICKS

One of the heaviest losses in the poultry yard is due to the lack of care in the feeding of young chicks. Little chicks should not be fed before they are two days old, but they should be given a little water from the beginning. During this period give the hen her food out of the reach of the little ones. The first feeds are given sparingly every two hours, and are usually wet mash. After the third day, feed some of the cracked grains, a little at a time, till, at the end of the fifth or sixth day, they are given only two feeds a day of the mash, and three feeds of the cracked grain. Occasionally, give a little whole wheat, and by the end of eight weeks feed most of the grains whole. If the chicks are unable to get worms or insects in sufficient quantities, they must be supplied with a substitute, such as milk or beef scraps. Green feed is given in the form of finely chopped lettuce, a piece of potato or turnip or mangel when they are not able to run outside on the grass.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"How the New Currency Law Affects Me," with explanations by George H. Shibley, expert to the senate committee on banking and currency. J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, 57 Rose street, New York. Price, 10 cents.

"The Shears of Delilah," stories of married life, by Virginia Terhune Van de Water. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. Price, \$1.25, net.

"The Rocks of Valpre," by Ethel M. Dell, author of "The Way of an Eagle," "The Knave of Diamonds," etc. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. Price, \$1.35 net.

"The Anti-Saloon League Year Book, 1914." An encyclopedia of facts and figures dealing with the liquor traffic and the temperance reform. Compiled and edited by Ernest Hurst Cherrington, editor of The American Issue. Published by the Anti-Saloon League of America. The American Issue Press, Westerville, Ohio. Price, postpaid, Manila bound, 25 cents; cloth bound, 50 cents.

"The Whole Truth About the Tariff," a study by the author with the reader that is not stopped at the point most favorable to either side in the controversy, but is carried to the conclusions necessitated by logic. By George L. Bolen. Phoenix Publishing Company, Battle Creek, Mich.

"How to get the Trusts to Quit," (pamphlet), published by the Square Deal Club, Berlin, Pa. Price, 10 cents.

"The Profitable Wage. What Is It?" The capitalizing of the human machine. By Ed E. Sheasgreen. The Standard Cost Finding Service Company, Chicago, Ill.

"Woman's Who's Who of America," a biographical dictionary of contemporary women of the United States and Canada, 1914-1915. John Wil-

Ham Leonard, editor-in-chief. The American Commonwealth Company, New York.

"HEAVEN AND HELL," Swedenborg's 400 page work, 15c postpaid. Pastor Landenberger, Windsor Place, St. Louis, Mo.

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